

Formation of Afghan Women Network (AWN) Executive Committee

Group work: Discussions on the following topics took place in three groups. Each topic discussed for 20 minutes.

1. Is existence of AWN in Peshawar needed?
2. Suggestions for the improvement of the AWN.

Here are some of the ideas that came out of the group discussions:

For the first topic

- Existence of AWN is highly needed;

For the second topic

- executive committee be formed;
- unity and cooperation between the members of the network be encouraged;
- male colleagues be invited in meetings when their consultation is needed;
- job descriptions for the members be developed;
- achievements of the Network be reported on a regular basis;
- the four already established committees be reorganized;
- regular workshops be conducted for agencies' staff

Brigitte Neubacher from UNOCHA Islamabad briefed the floor on objectives of the Resource Center for gender and Women's Human Rights in Afghanistan.

The Resource Center has recently been established with the aim to:

- increase cooperation among agencies, NGOs and donors on gender issues and human rights.
- provide training for UN agencies, NGOs, donors and Afghan communities regarding gender and human rights perspective.
- research on gender issues and human rights.

The contact person for the Resource Center is Latifa Irshad, coordinator resource center.

The Chairperson requested volunteers for membership of the Executive Committee to introduce themselves and explain if they have experience in gender related fields.

The following person were elected as members of the Executive Committee:

Name	Title
Eng. Rahela Harcer	Coordinator
Khorshid Noori	Member
Hawa Majid	Member
Jamila Akbarzai	Member
Homa Zaafer	Member
Belquis R.A.	Member
Partawmina	Member

Any other business:

Participants were asked for financial contribution for the Network. A form was circulated to the floor to write the amount of contribution before their names. The money would be used for the expenses of the Network ie logo, etc..

Next meeting: will be held on Tuesday 17 June 1997 at 10:00 am in ACBAR conference room. Attached please find the agenda for the next meeting.



ACBAR

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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Women Affairs Sub- Committee Meeting 10:00 am, 17 June 1997

Chairperson: Belquis R.A ACBAR

Participants:

Aziza	IRC/WELP	Lema	AWDA
Diana	ANCB	Leena	NCA
Dr. Zubida	DCA	Masooda	AGHCO
Eng. Aqila	AWDP	Masuma	AWDH
Eveline	UNOCHA	Nabilla Haqbeen	FEW
Farangis	Afghanaid	Nelofar	AMRAN
Farida	NCA	Noorzia	CoAR
Ferashta Omari	CCA	Partawmina Hashemi	AWRC
Hawa Majid	SCA	Qadria	NPO/RRR
Homa Zaafer	ROAOW	Qudsia	ADCAW
Jamila Akbarzai	AWWD	Shahida	DACAR
Diana Poya	ACBAR	Sohaila	S.A Belgium

Apologies:

Safia Seddiqi	DACAR
khoshid Noori	NAC
Afifa Azim	RB/TU
Eng. Rahila	WFP-ISBD

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting:
Both the agenda and minutes were approved.

Announcements:

AWN together with ACBAR intend to conduct a workshop on communication on 1 July 1997. The workshop will be facilitated by Sediqa from RB/TU. Co-facilitators will be Farangis from Afghanaid and Qudsia from AWWD. The workshop will take place in ACBAR office.

Update on AWN activities:

Ms Partawmina on behalf of executive committee of AWN briefed the participants on activities undertaken during the last month. She added that the members of executive committee meet every week to make preparations for workshops and other activities such as writing proposals, organizing meetings with heads of agencies etc.

- the newsletter is finalized, (copy attached)
- a draft proposal has been prepared
- due to financial problems, we have not been able to prepare a letter head for AWN, however it will be printed within 10 days.
- for official recognition of AWN, a letter addressed to head of agencies will be distributed soon.

- regarding the workshops the executive members felt that other members of AWN should prioritize the topics for the workshops to be undertaken in the year 1997. Therefore a list of workshops was written on the board and participants were requested to work in groups and prioritize the topics.

The following was the result :

1. Communication
2. Gender awareness
3. Women's human/Islamic right
4. Conflict resolution
5. Report writing
6. Management/record keeping
7. Leadership
8. Proposal writing
9. Human right
- 10 Child right
11. Decision making
12. Women and development

The executive committee of the Network will make preparations for organizing the above listed workshops.

Women database;

ACBAR briefed the floor on the information collected so far. Those agencies who have not received the forms were asked to contact Belquis.

Participants expressed their feelings on serious need for such information.

Chairperson & date for the next meeting;

Ms. Homa Zaafer was appointed as chairperson for the next meeting which will be held on 17 July 1997.

Any other business;

- For reorganizing the working groups, AWN "members' application" forms were circulated to be filled by the participants during the tea break. The forms were collected at the end of the meeting.
- ACBAR mailing list of women affairs sub-committee was circulated to the participants to make sure that their addresses are correct. Recently some NGOs had complained that they do not receive the minutes and agenda on time.
- The financial contribution form was also circulated and members' were asked for contribution.
- Some participants felt that from now on male colleagues be invited in the meetings. The final decision was left to be discussed later.



ACBAR

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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Women Affairs Sub- Committee Meeting

10:00 am, 17 July 1997

Chairperson: Homa Zaafer ROAOW

Minutes: Belquis ACBAR

Participants:

Aziza	WELP	Qudsia	HDCAW
Diana Ibrahimi	ANCB	Masooda	AGHCO
Dr. Zubaida	DCA	Zarghuna	MARUF
Eng. Aqila	AWDP	Nasreen	VSF
Khorshid Noori	NAC	Nelofar	AMRAN
Farangis	Afghanaid	Noorzia	CoAR
Nasima		Fawzia	CARE
Ferashta Omari	CCA	Qadria	NPO/RRA
Fukhray	Afghanaid	Nooria	
Homa Zaafer	ROAOW	Sohaila	BEFARe
Jamila Akbarzai	AWWD	Sohaila	S.A Belgium
Lema	AWDA		
Diana Poya	ACBAR	Eng. Mehria	ATC
Randall B. Olson	American Consulate	Masoma	AWDA
Hamida Anwari	ICC	Siame	
Palwasha Hassan	NBSD/ICC	Brishna Mangal	HWAD

Chief Guest:

Ustad Danish Zaringar

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting;

Both the agenda and minutes were approved.

Announcements;

(a) AWN together with ACBAR intend to conduct a workshop on Gender Awareness on 31 July 1997. The aim of the workshop is "to raise awareness on gender issues in Afghanistan; to discuss gender terminology and to encourage advocacy on gender."

(b) Pro Software Development (PSD) is an Afghan computer training course located in University Town. The course is planning to commence four weeks training course for men and women on the following topics:

- ♦ Electronic Data Processing
- ♦ Configuring your PC
- ♦ Trouble Shooting

For more information, please contact phone number 41377.

Update on AWN activities;

Ms Khorshid Noori on behalf of the Executive Committee of AWN briefed the participants on activities undertaken during the last month. The activities are summarized as follow:

- ♣ Collecting material for the workshops on communication and gender awareness, and organizing the communication workshop,
- ♣ a proposal for funding the workshops has been submitted to donor agencies,
- ♣ AWN was officially introduced to heads of agencies at the ACBAR General Assembly.
- ♣ directors of NGOs were requested through an official letter to designate a female staff of their organization to participate in AWN meetings and take active role in improving the network.
- ♣ the executive committee is working on preparing rules and regulations for AWN. Ideas from members would be included.

Review of Communication workshop

Ms. Farangis presented a summary of the workshop results. The participants also shared their learning from the workshop. The main topics covered by the workshop were "communication", "meetings" and "interviews".

Chairperson & date for the next meeting;

Ms. Hamida Anwari , ICC, was appointed as chairperson for the next meeting, which will be held on 18 August 1997 at the ACBAR office.

Any other business;

- A Mr. Randall B. Olson from US Consulate in Peshawar participated in the meeting. He said his purpose for attending the meeting was to get an idea of Afghan women's living conditions and problems, particularly those of refugees. Mr. Olson noted the problems presented by participants. The main problems were presented by Ms Zaringar.
- B Ms. Danish Zaringar, an Afghan poetess and artist, briefed the floor on problems of refugees in Nasir Bagh Camp. Lack of drinking water and food supplies have worsened the living conditions of refugees in the camp. Women are usually not well respected, particularly by aid workers. It was added that security situation in the camp has also deteriorated and there are a lot of shooting at nights. The refugees face a shortage of health and education facilities. There is a visible increase in cases of skin diseases as well as Rabies in the camp. On the distribution of rations, it was said that the number of family members is not considered at time of distribution. She requested representatives of the Sub-committee to visit the camp and see the living conditions of the refugees.

Suggestions:

- Afghan should be given priority in employment in aid agencies;
- Afghan personnel should accompany each survey teams to discuss with people in their own language;
- ACBAR should write a letter to the NGOs working for refugees in Nasir Bagh Camp, and see whether they have resources to provide any additional assistance.
- Network should consider holding meetings workshops for women in refugee camps.

- Members of the network personally contribute money and goods to the refugees;
- It is highly suggested that members should meet with women in the camps and transfer their problems to higher authorities;
- Gender awareness workshop should be provided for refugees women;
- Job opportunities should be provided for refugees women;
- An umbrella of the female NGOs should be formed under the guidance of one of the NGO Coordinating Bodies. This idea needs further discussions.

It was also suggested that :

- Identification card should be provided for members of AWN.
- Male individuals should attend women sub-committee meeting.



ACBAR

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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Women Affairs Sub- Committee Meeting

10:00 am, 18 August 1997

Chairperson: Hamida Anwari ICIC

Participants:

Farida	WCSP		
Diana Ibrahimi	ANCB	Diana Poya	ACBAR
Khorshid Noori	NAC	Masoma	AWDA
Farangis	Afghanaid	Eng. Mehria	ATC
Ferashta Omari	CCA	Brishna Mangal	HWAD
Homa Zaafer	ROAOW	Eng Sadozai	WDPA
Jamila Akbarzai	AWWD	Laila Sarahat	
Lema	AWDA	Partawmina	AWRC
Masooda	AGHCO	Tahera Ihrari	CHA
Zarghuna	MARUF	Fatana Arifi	GMM-FAI
Nasreen	VSB	Nelofar	AMRAN
Nelofar	AMRAN	Nabila	FEW
Zakia Wardak	CoAR	Farida	NCA
Wahida	HRA	Belquis R.A.	ACBAR

Applogies:

Eng Aqila	AWDA
Aziza	WELP
Sohaila	S.A. Belgium

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting:

Comments were made on possible material contribution by members of the Sub-committee to the poor refugees in camps. It was said that the participants should have been requested to present their contributions to the meeting.

Announcements:

- (a) A conference on "Know How Conference on the World of Women's Information" will be held in Amsterdam from August 22-26 1998. The conference will approach the visibility and accessibility of women's information from within the local, regional and global frameworks. The interested individuals can obtain applications for participation, and more information from Belquis, ACBAR.
- (b) The next workshop of AWN, Women's Islamic Rights, is planned to be held in ANCB office on 30 September 1997. It was explained that since similar workshops will continue to be conducted in future also, only the limited number of members, those who are invited, should participate. Other members will certainly receive a chance for participation in any of the workshops in future. The Executive Committee of the network is looking for someone professional to facilitate the planned workshop. However, the final decision on holding this workshop will be announced at the next meeting.

- (c) Eng. Rahela, WFP, due to increasing official work load, has resigned from her position as Coordinator of AWN, for which she was elected in May 1997. Based on the Executive Committee's decision, Belquis R A, from ACBAR, has taken over the responsibility of network's Coordinator. Belquis has been critically involved in most of the managerial work of the network since November 1996.
- (d) AWN's Executive Committee is seeking suitable candidates for a vacant voluntary position of the committee's member. Interested individuals should submit their applications to Belquis R A as soon as possible.

Update on AWN activities;

Summary of AWN's activities was presented as follow:

- ✦ Organizing the Gender awareness workshop;
- ✦ meeting with Prof. Paik, on 1 August 1997 (see details under Any other business, 1);
- ✦ identity cards prepared for the individual members, with financial contribution from Ms Khorshid, members will later be required to send their personal data and photographs to the Executive Committee for further process;
- ✦ material for the second issue of the newsletter (Nawe Heela) have been prepared; it will soon be published;
- ✦ the Executive Committee is working on preparing rules and regulations for AWN; ideas from the members would be welcomed;

Review of Gender Awareness workshop

The Chairperson presented a summary of the workshop results. The participants also shared their learning from the workshop. The workshop on Gender Awareness was conducted by AWN in July 1997. The aim was to open hearts and minds to new ways of learning and to increase awareness of gender roles. The main topics covered by the workshop were "Gender terminology, levels of participation, paid and unpaid work".

Chairperson & date for the next meeting;

Ms. Jamila Akbarzai from AWD will chair the next meeting, which will be held on 16 September 1997 at the ACBAR office.

Any other business;

1. Participants were briefed about the meeting of AWN representatives with the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Afghanistan held on 1 August:

Summary of remarks:

The Afghan women would like to strongly request, firstly the UN, to

- consider the problems of Afghan women seriously; and
- try to convince the authorities about women's rights to education and employment, by Muslim intellectuals from other Islamic countries;

and, secondly, the donor communities to

- extend assistance to the field of education for refugees in Pakistan and Iran, by supporting, at least the already established school and education centers, as well as supporting adult education;
- review and adjust their policies in accordance to the needs; and
- support the organizations working for human rights in Afghanistan.

(Copies of the meeting with Prof. Paik were circulated to the participants)

- 2 18 August coincides to the Independence Day of Afghanistan. As a tribute to the independence day, a discussion was raised on the remarkable old days of Afghan history. Some of the discussions are summarized as follow:

“History is a mirror of the past and a lesson for the present.”

Treaty of Gundumak (May 1879)

Louis Cavagnari met with Yaqub Khan at Gandumak on May 20, 1879, and signed a treaty which removed restrictions on British travel in Afghanistan and placed an envoy at Kabul.

The main points of Gundumak Treaty included: the British would control Afghanistan's foreign affairs; English-born representative would reside in Kabul and other areas under the protection of the Afghans; the Amir ceded Kurram, Pishin, and Sibi to the British, and agreed to the extension of British control to Khyber and Michni Passes; in return for these concessions, the Amir would receive 60,000 pound per year and loose guarantees for assistance in the event of any foreign aggression.

Louis Cavagnari arrived in Kabul in July 1879 (with a small escort), to serve as the British Resident. On 3 September, the pattern of the First Anglo-Afghan War repeated, and Cavagnari was killed by mutinous Afghan soldiers, who had been paid neither by the Afghans nor by the British, and elements of the Kabul population opposed to the presence of the British contingent. General Roberts moved from Kurram. He reached Kabul on 12 October 1879, and, on the same day Yaqub Khan abdicated the throne. He went to India, where he died in exile in 1923. General Robert became Amir in Kabul. He ruled with an iron hand and instituted a reign of terror remembered to this day. But the Afghans once again did not take lightly the occupation of their country by foreigners. Under the leadership of Mushk Alam, Mohammed Jan Khan Wardak, Mir Bacha Khan and others, a large Afghan lashkar moved on Kabul. General Robert was driven from the field in December. From 400 Afghan women supporting the warriors, 83 were killed only in December that year.

At the battle of Maiwand a legendary Pashtoon heroine, Malalai, used her veil as a standard, and encouraged the warriors by shouting the following couplet (landay),

Young love, if you do not fall in the battle of Maiwand,
By God, someone is saving you as a token of shame.

- 3 Ms. Breshna spoke about the problems of refugees particularly the problems of Nasir Bagh camp in Pakistan and requested that the network raise these problems with the relevant authorities. The problems were summarized as follow:

- The refugees who have spent some of their hard-earned money to build their mud houses in the camp, and now their house are destroyed by PDA, wonder why they chose Nasir Bagh for settlement;
- why did not the Pakistan authorities stop the new refugees from building houses in a camp which was meant for the Regi Lalma township?
- why did the UNHCR and the NGOs (SNI), go ahead with construction of one-room houses for the refugees on a land which the PDA wanted vacated for its township project?

NOTE: Those interested in contributing material to the poor refugees in camps are kindly requested to bring the material to the next meeting.



ACBAR

AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

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Women Affairs Sub- Committee Meeting

10:00 am, 16 September 1997

Chairperson: Belquis R.A. ACBAR

Participants:

Hamida Anwari	ICC	Diana Poya	ACBAR
Diana Ibrahimi	ANCB	Masoma	AWDA
Khorshid Noori	NAC	Lena	NCA
Farangis	Afghanaid	Brishna Mangal	HWAD
Palwasha	AWEC	Eng Sadozai	WDPA
Eng. Sohaila	RSSA	Hekmat	KEP
Qudsia	HDCAW	Eveline	UNOCHA
Lema	AWDA	Tahera Ihrari	CHA
Masooda	AGHCO	Taiba Sohaila	BBC
Zarghuna	MARUF	Hadia	UNOCHA
Nasreen	VSb	Nabila	FEW
Nelofar	AMRAN	Farida	NCA
Sohila	BEFARe	Eng. Aqila	AWDP
Adela	AREA	Hawa Majid	SCA
Dr. Zobaida	DCA	Safia Seddiqi	DACAAR
Danish Zaringar	Nasir Bagh Camp		

Applogies:

Freshta

CCA

The Chairperson (Jamila Akbarzai), apologized for not being able to attend the meeting,, Belquis presided the meeting.

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting;

Both the agenda and minutes were approved.

Review of Working With Conflict Workshop

From 24 August to 5 September, a workshop on Working With Conflict took place in Swat.

Twenty-one participants from different NGOs and UN agencies participated at the workshop. Four members of the AWN participated.

During the workshop, questions were raised as to what causes conflict and what techniques are effective in settlement of conflict and, especially, how different cultures approach conflict.

The workshop focused on concepts, tools and methods for conflict-analysis, conflict-handling and peace-building. In order to deal with conflict, it is necessary to analyze its underlying causes and make use of conflict management strategies. The need for expansion of these skills in the wider Afghan community was strongly felt.

The workshop included communication and group work skills as well as conflict handling skills , such as traditional methods (Jirga), mediation, negotiation and trust building.

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ACBAR

Compilation of the

WOMEN

Sub-committee documentation

1994

to

1997

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August 1999

Working groups (members, job description)

Some modifications were made to the structure of the network and the activities to be undertaken. A number of members were nominated to form the Working Groups.

The draft structure of AWN, along with the names of the members of the working groups are attached to the minutes.

Announcements

- 1 The Executive Committee of the network announced Ms. Farangis as a new member of the executive committee. She was selected out of four candidates for the vacant position.
- 2 The executive committee of the network apologized for postponing the "Women's Islamic rights" workshop, planned for 30 September. The reason was described as not being able to find a religious expert to facilitate the workshop. Instead a workshop on "how to handle conflict" will take place in 30 September 1997 in ANCB office for some 25 women. Invitations and the agenda of the workshop will be circulated later.
- 3 Ms. Eveline from UNOCHA-Peshawar, announced the arrival of an inter-agency UN Mission on 22 September, who will finalize the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan. Eveline suggested a meeting of the members of the network with the mission. Once the mission comes to Peshawar, a meeting will be organized and members informed.

The Strategic Framework is an open ended process which will help the people in crisis and their national and International partners to formulate a vision of their future actions to achieve a sustainable peace.

- 4 A UN Gender Mission is scheduled to visit Afghanistan at the end of September and beginning of October
 - 5 UNOCHA have some funds available for Emergency Projects, those seeking funds for emergency projects are requested to contact UNOCHA Peshawar for further information and submit their proposals to UNOCHA Islamabad.
 - 6 The Center for Women's Global Leadership is seeking women's ideas from around the world to get a clear vision of a world where all women enjoy their human rights. Women are asked to produce posters, and a list of 50 questions about women's Human Rights, around the theme "Imagine a world where all women enjoy their human rights."
- This is to discuss plans for the "1998: Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights" and to solicit your ideas and participation. To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights and its historic recognition of women's' rights as human rights, the UN Commission on Human Rights will review implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. The Center for Women's Global Leadership is calling on women's NGOs to join in a major global campaign in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998.
- 25 November 1997, has been named as "Solidarity with Afghan women" day, Announced by Palwasha.
- 7 The material which was collected from the members to be donated to the poor women in Nasir Bagh Camp were distributed to some 57 poor women.

Chairperson & date for the next meeting:

Ms. Farangis Fariwar from Afghanaid, will chair the next meeting, which will be held on 15 October 1997 at the ACBAR office.

Any other business:

- Ms Danish Zaringar read a poem of an Afghan woman refugee who was willing to meet with the members of the network, but due to some problems went back to Kabul.
- Safia Seddiqi from DACAAR, announced Mahboba Hoqoqmal's illness, she will soon have an operation. Mahboba Hoqoqmal, the former President of Law faculty in Kabul University and also member of AWN, is suffering from cardiac problems. Those willing to donate blood (if required) or support her financially are kindly requested to contact Safia at DACAAR or Belquis at ACBAR.

The following members of the network volunteered to assist Mahboba either financially or by donating blood:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| ■ Nazifa | AIL |
| ■ Taiba Sohila | BBC |
| ■ Aqila | AWDP |
| ■ Diana Poya | ACBAR |
| ■ Farangis | Afghanaid |
| ■ Tahera Ihrari | CHA |
| ■ Nabila Haqbeen | FEW |

Suggestions:

It was suggested that AWN might, in the future, make some funding available for such emergency situations.

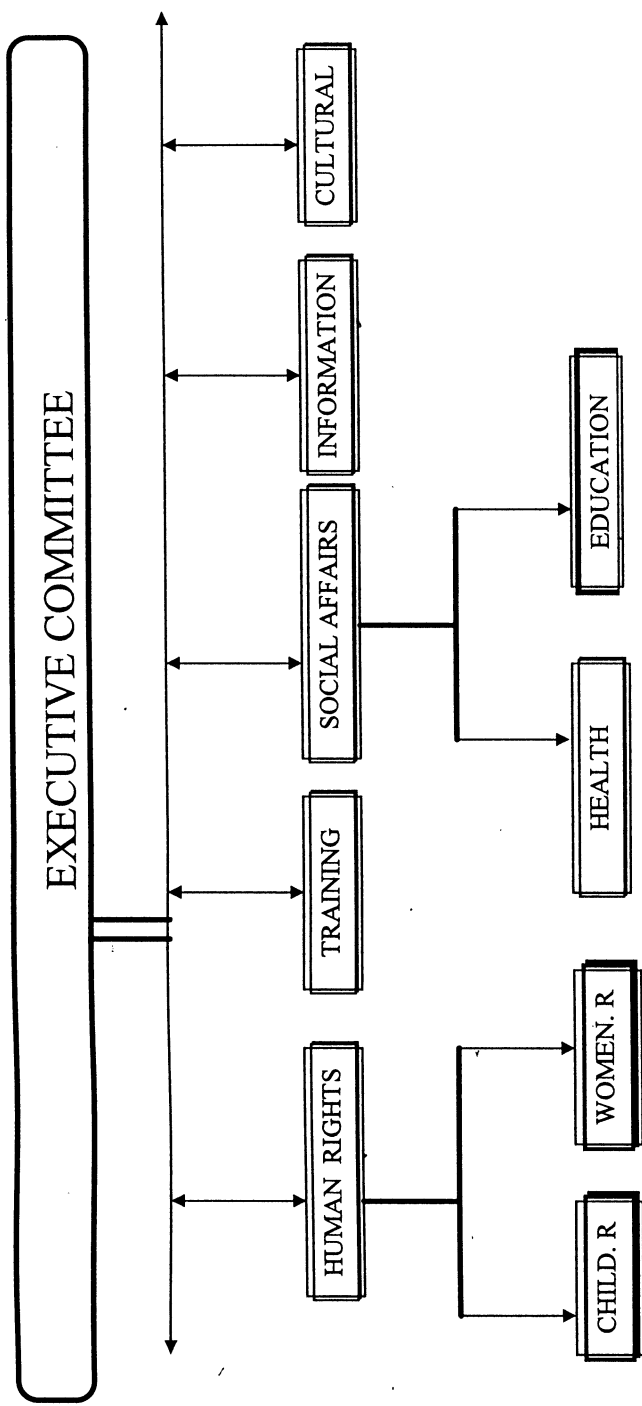
It was also suggested by the participants, that in order to support the gender issue and show interest in supporting Afghan women, ACBAR should be asked to allocate a small amount of its membership fee for running cost of AWN activities. It was emphasized that the issue should be raised with the Executive Director of ACBAR as well as with the Steering Committee

NOTE: Those interested in contributing material to the poor refugees in camps are kingly requested to bring the material to the next meeting.

Working Groups' Members

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AFGHAN WOMEN NETWORK
AWN



MEMBERS	
■	Belquis R.A.
■	Khorshid Noori
■	Hawa Majid
■	Partawmina Hashemi
■	Jamila Akbarzai
■	Homa Zaafer
■	Farangis Fariwar



ACBAR

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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Women Affairs Sub-Committee Meeting
10:00 am, 15 October 1997

Chairperson: Farangis Afghanaid

Minutes: Diana Poya ACBAR

Participants:

Lema	AWDA	Jamila	AWWD
Khorshid Noori	NAC	Farahnaz	UNOPS
Sohaila Yar zad	S A Belguim	Noorzia	CoAR
Freshta	CCA	Eng Aqela	AWDA
Leena	NCA	Afifa Azim	RBTU
Hadia	UNOCHA	Eng Mehria	ATC
Sohaila	RSSA	Dr Nasrin	HCI
Adela	AREA	Shahida	DACAAR
Fawzia	CARE	Zarghoona	MARUF
Nasreen	VSF	Fatana Arifi	GMMFAI
Shaista	Naser Bagh Camp	Dr Zobaida	DCA
Homa Zaafer	ROAOW	Ofelia Bornay	WFP
Danesh Zaringer	Nasir Bagh Camp	Nilofar	UNICEF

Apologies:

Belquis R.A	ACBAR
Aziza	WELP

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting:

Both the agenda and minutes of the last meeting were approved without any comments.

The Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. A round introduction took place. Khorshid Noori, NAC circulated 'name tags' prepared by the Executive Committee of AWN and ACBAR, Women Affairs Sub-Committee, and explained it was meant to be put on during the meeting.

Review of the working with conflict workshop:

Although the workshop was said to be very useful and practical in our daily lives it was said that one day was not enough for the issue.

It is to be mentioned that the workshop was only an introduction to some of the topics used in working with conflict workshop in order to enhance our concepts of conflict and conflict analysis.

Afghan Women Network (AWN), ACBAR Women Affairs Sub-committee and Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU) are working together to organize and conduct a two weeks workshop on Working with Conflict for men and women staff of NGOs in Peshawar, in the near future.

It was suggested that training of trainers workshop be conducted for the members of AWN who could then expand the skills of conflict management to a larger community of Afghan women.

Working Groups:

The draft job description for the Working Group Members and Team Leaders were distributed. The participants worked with their group members to discuss the job description and select their Team Leaders. However, since some of the members were not present, the final decision was left for the next meeting. Members were asked to study the job description and add their comments to be discussed at the next meeting.

General Rules of AWN:

A paper in this regard was distributed to the participants for their comments and suggestions. The Chairperson noted down their comments. Once it is approved by the executive committee of the network it would be announced in the next meeting.

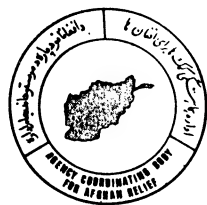
Chairperson & Date for the next meeting:

Ms Zarghoona Azimi from MARUF was volunteer to chair the next meeting which will be held on **18 November 97** at the ACBAR conference room.

Any Other Business:

The Chairperson briefed the participants on a meeting with Ms. Humaira Etemadi from the International NGO Working Group on Refugee Women, Geneva, who had visited Peshawar recently on a mission called "Chadar Solha". The papers containing information about the above mentioned NGO and "Chadar Solha" were distributed to participants. They were asked to read the materials and share their comments at the next meeting of AWN.

Ms Ofelia Bornay WFP Advisor from Islamabad announced that as a representative of WFP which is a donor agency, would like to talk to the women group and particularly those who are associated with WFP and discuss their project proposals and problems if any. This was carried out after the meeting.



ACBAR

AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

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Women Affairs Sub- Committee Meeting

10:00 am, 18 November 1997

Chairperson: Zarghuna Azimi MARUF
Minutes: Belquis ACBAR
Participants:

Adela	AREA	Malalai	Khadija Kubra School
Diana Ibrahimi	ANCB	Masooda	AGHCO
Diana Poya	ACBAR	Najiba	Takharistan School
Dr. Nasrin	HCI	Nasreen	VSBB
Eng. Aqila	AWDP	Nazifa	AIL
Eveline	UNOCHA	Nelofar	AMRAN
Fawzia	CARE	Partawmina	AWRC
Nelofar	AMRAN	Qamar	Fatima-Zahra School
Fukhraj	Afghanaid	Sadozai	WDPA
Hadia	UNOCHA	Salima	IRC
Hamida Anwari	ICC	Shenky	CCA
Hellai Popal	BEFARe	Sohaila	S.A Belgium
Homa Zaafer	ROAOW	Sohaila	RSSA
Iris	UNHCR	Taiba Sohaila	BBC
Jamila Akbarzai	AWWD	Zarghuna Baqie	IRC
Khairia	WUR		

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting

Both the agenda and minutes were approved without comment.

Job description of the working groups

As agreed at the last meeting, it was expected that members come with their comments and suggestions on the drafted job description which was prepared by the Executive Committee of the Network.

There were no changes recommended, the job description of the working groups were approved.

The working groups will meet in the following days to work on the action plan for the year 1998:

Date/Time	Working Group	Venue	Members
Thur, 20 Nov. 10:00	Health	HCI	- Masooda Omar - Dr. Nasrin - Dr. Zobaidda - Belquis
Mon, 24 Nov. 10:00	Child Rights	MARUF	- Palwasha - Tahera Ihrari - Breshna Mangal - Afifa Azim - Nabila Haqbeen - Zarghuna Azimi - Nazefa Abedi - Belquis

Date/Time	Working Group	Venue	Members
Mon, 24 Nov. 14:00	Information	WDPA	- Sadozai - Jamila Akbarzai - Sohaila (RSSA) - Farida (WCSP) - Eveline - Belquis
Tues, 25 Nov. 10:00	Training	AWRC	- Afifa Azim - Farangis - Mehria - Partawmina - Noorzia - Farida Azizi - Lena - Belquis
Wed, 26 Nov. 10:00	Women Rights	ACBAR	- Najiba - Sohaila Yarzad - Eng. Aqila - Hamida Anwari - Belquis
Wed, 26 Nov. 14:00	Cultural	BBC	- Homa - Taiba - Laila Sarahat - Belquis
Thur, 27 Nov. 14:00	Education	ANCB	- Fawzia - Khorshid - Hawa Majid - Adela - Qudsia - Hadia - Diana Ibrahimi - Nasrin - Malalai - Belquis

Chadar Solha

Any comments on this issue should be addressed to Safia in DACAAR, Palwasha in IRFAN Centre and Shenky in CCA office.

HCI, activities

Dr. Nasrin from Human Concern International (HCI), briefed the floor on the background and activities of HCI. The organisation started operations for Afghan refugees and Afghanistan in 1980. Sectors of operation covered are Preventative health care, Income generation programmes, Vocational training, Education, Engineering and Agriculture.

HCI has conducted the following activities in Pakistan and inside Afghanistan:

- Emergency feeding and winter clothes to displaced families in Kabul and surrounding areas.
- Mobile clinic services to displaced people from Kabul and surrounding areas.
- Khost airport repair, runway and checkpoints.

HCI is planning a vocational training and income generation programme for widows in Kabul.

In Pakistan, under the name of Hope Village, this organisation provides training for some 450 students. In its MCH clinics for Afghan refugees in Akora Khatak camp, HCI also provides family planning training and health care training. Dr. Nasrin pointed out that health services need to be expanded particularly in Akora Khatak Camp. Interested agencies are requested to contact HCI office for further information regarding the situation in this camp.

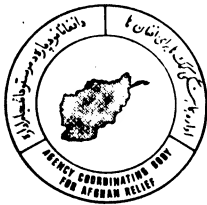
Iris from UNHCR, promised to visit the camp in the near future and see what UNHCR can do about it.

Any other business

- Partawmina suggested that those of us who have information on educated Afghan women who beg on the streets of Peshawar or who are in dehumanizing positions, are requested to introduce those women to the Executive Committee of the Network. The network is not in position to support them financially, however, they will try to find solutions and give them moral support, indications of where to seek employment and give them free consultations.
- Ms. Homa stated that Afghan women should feel the responsibility to support the Afghan community particularly women by teaching them and making them aware of the possible ways of how to improve their lives. This would include teaching on the awareness of basic human needs and human rights. Women should always condemn different types of discrimination and violence against women and girls in families and in community and address the importance of women's role in development and rehabilitation of Afghanistan.
- Ms. Aqila from AWDP, recently returned from Kabul, briefed the participants on the economic situation of Kabuli women. She emphasised the need for income generation projects in Kabul in order to help their economic situation.
- 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence, Nov. 25-Dec. 10, have been announced by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University. November 25 is International Day against Violence against Women, declared in 1981 in Bogota. AWN will celebrate this day by conducting a seminar on Domestic Violence and will also consider holding an exhibition of Afghan women's embroidery and handicrafts on 27 November. Those interested in participating in the exhibition are requested to contact Partawmina in AWRC or Homa in ROAOW offices.
- Iris, the Protection Officer from UNHCR, asked the contact address of participants and they were also asked to contact her in case they meet any women who have security problems.
- The participants suggested that a letter highlighting the plight of the refugee women, be sent to Alfredo Witschi-Cestari and Ms. Angela King and donor agencies. The letter should explain the situation of these refugees, particularly educated women in Pakistan who have been neglected since 1992. The letter should contain a paragraph about various types of violation of women's human rights in refugee camps including harassment by Pakistani soldiers.

Date and Chairperson for the next meeting

Ms. Sohaila Yarzad from SAS, Belgium, will chair the next meeting, which will take place on 16 December 1997 at the ACBAR office.



ACBAR

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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Women's Affairs Meeting
January 14, 1996
10:00 am at ACBAR Office

Chairperson:	<i>Khorshid Noori</i>	<i>NAC</i>
Participants:	<i>Rahima</i>	<i>AMRAN</i>
	<i>Terina</i>	<i>CCA</i>
	<i>Freshta</i>	<i>CCA</i>
	<i>Shalah</i>	<i>CCA</i>
	<i>Aqila</i>	<i>AWDP</i>
	<i>Noor Zia</i>	<i>CoAR</i>
	<i>Sohaila</i>	<i>ASYAR (SAB)</i>
	<i>Farida</i>	<i>NCA</i>
	<i>Dr. Zobaida Popal</i>	<i>DCA</i>
	<i>Partavmina</i>	<i>AWRC</i>
	<i>Dr. Noorjan</i>	<i>AWRC</i>
	<i>Safia Siddiqi</i>	<i>DACAAR</i>
	<i>Mahboba Hoqoqmal</i>	<i>AMRAN</i>
	<i>Ajifa</i>	<i>Radda Barnen</i>
	<i>Malalai</i>	<i>ACDO</i>
	<i>Belquis R.A.</i>	<i>ACBAR</i>

Agenda:

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting:

Activities of the working groups:

Name and symbol for AWN newsletter:

Activity update (by agencies):

Any other business.

Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting and the agenda were approved.

Activities of the working groups:

The activities of the groups were described as follow:

Cultural Working Group

This group will be responsible for publishing the AWN newsletter. Their activities will include printing, providing materials, etc.

To publish the first edition, the Cultural group requested the members of the network for contribution.

Health

The working group will be responsible to collect information on health situation within Afghan women refugees in camps.

They will also identify the needs of people from the health aspect such as dia training, health education.. etc.

Section:	Contents:	Pages(S)
1997	March to November 1997 Minutes	1-52
1996	January to December 1996 Minutes	1-20
1995	September Minutes 1995	1-8
1994	August 1994 Minutes	1-8

Foreign Relations

This group will establish and maintain contacts with other women networks in Pakistan, Afghanistan and other countries.

Social Affairs

Members of this group will be responsible to identify the main problems concerning the Afghan women, and will work on solutions, i.e. provision of education, health, employment, etc.

Name and symbol for the AWN newsletter:

After some discussion, the name of the newsletter was selected to be DAWN, and a earth globe, with picture of an Afghan woman holding her baby in her arms and a book in her hand inside the globe, will be the symbol of the newsletter.

Activity update:

Participants were asked to send a copy of their monthly women related activities to the Women Affairs Program Officer, ACBAR.

Any other business:

- * It was suggested that 'announcements' should be included in the agenda.
- * Safia Siddiqi's first book (THE UNREAD BOOK) has been published recently. She was congratulated for this. To celebrate this, a party will be conducted on 28 Jan in Islamabad.
- * The floor decided that if the people invited to the meetings do not attend three consecutive meetings, their names will be removed from the mailing list.

Some changes were brought in the members of the groups.

Cultural

#	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Mahboba Hogoqmal	AMRAN	845446
2	Noorzia	CoAR	41188
3	Safia	DACAAR	43245
4	Khorshid	NAC	43717
5	Fawzia	AWC	812115
6	Leena	NCA	840304
7	Aziza Azizi <i>Amir</i>	AWRC	841552
8	Partawmina	AWRC	841552

Health

#	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Dr. Zobaida	DCA	44731
2	Dr. Shamshad	DCA	44731
3	Dr. Malalai	SCA	814772
4	Razia	DACAAR	43245
5	Sharifa	DACAAR	43245
6	Dr. Noorjan	AWRC	841452

Foreign Relations

#	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Mehria	ATC	40412
2	Safia	DACAAR	43245
3	Belquis	ACBAR	44392/40839/45316
4	Mahboba Hogoqmal	AMRAN	845446
5	Rahela	WFP	273641
6	Farida	NCA	840340

Social Affairs

#	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Massoda Farina	AGHCO	846491
2	Sohaila	SOS-PG	812456
3	Amena Bower CL	MARUF	44986
4	Aqela	AWDP	
5	Hajera Guadria	AWDD	
6	Malalai	ACDC	818188
7	Freshta	CCA	810116
8	Terina	SCA	810116
9	Nasrin Ali Ber	VSB	893618
10	Safia	AWRC	841552
11	Shahla	CCA	810116

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Mahboba Hoqoqmal from AMRAN will chair the next Women Affairs meeting, which would be held on 26, February, 1997 at the ACBAR conference room. Agenda will be send later on.

Agency Coordinating Body For Afghan Relief
Women Meeting
Held on March 19, 1996
By: Shenky Zahery

PROMINENT ISSUE: (WIDOWS/DISABLED WOMEN AND ORPHANS)

Shenky welcomed the participants and hoped that the meeting will focus on vulnerable issues and suitable solutions will be attained.

i. **Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Minutes were approved.

ii. **Announcements:**

AWRC announced that they have completed a one week advocacy program to beggar women in Peshawar city. About 100 beggar women participated in this program. The women were mostly widows or their husbands were disabled. They expressed that they will no more continue beggary if a comprehensive program is established to involve them.

iii. **Widows, Disabled Women and Orphans Programs:**

a) **Identify General Problems**

ROAOW reported that the conclusion of their survey in Jalalabad and Kandahar showed that widows are the most vulnerable group, since they are mostly deprived of working facilities, while having no income source.

It was suggested that agencies should conduct income generation programs, such as tailoring, soap making etc, thence the women and their families will be provided with a minimum sustenance.

AWWD believed that financial problems have caused a big number of women to start begging. This is a serious issue and should be urgently addressed through launching income generation projects.

Zarghona Ana High School raised the education problem of orphans, stressing that they should be provided financial contribution, beside school fee, by their relevant schools. The representative of Zarghona Ana School provided an example of her school, where 180 orphans study and they are badly in need of assistance.

ACBAR stated that instead of cash support, provision of stationary and other needs of students will further support the process of education.

A social worker of Nasir Bagh refugee camp, who participated in the meeting, raised the main problems of refugees in the camp; there are a big number of illiterate women, who do not have other skills either, to ensure an income.

The orphan school in Nasir Bagh Camp has not received any assistance so far.

AWC, with regards to the Nasir Bagh Orphans School, said that they intended to extend assistance to this school but the number of students was mentioned far more than the actual figure. It was requested to provide accurate statistics to be considered for assistance.

UNDCP use to support blind women, but this project has discontinued. This group is considered as the most helpless, thus ways should be sought to assist them.

b) Identify General Needs

It was totally believed that income generation programs for women should be accelerated and further strengthened, that could ease the burden of sustenance making for women. Special projects should be intended to discourage begging among vulnerable women and to provide them with suitable financial substitute.

ACBAR denoted that orphan schools should directly contact IRC and ask for assistance.

It was suggested that some of the big cloth markets should be contacted and skilled women should be directed to refer to the markets for work. Mostly, in such type of works, the women are unfairly paid. This issue should also be raised with the cloth dealers in the markets.

Members of the meeting were of the view that a fund should be initiated by individual Afghans donations. The fund could be used for implementation of a big project, with widows and orphans as target groups.

c) Viable Training Programs

Basically, very is done for widows and orphans currently. There are some training programs in the camps as well as cross border, especially in Jalalabad, but they are inadequate.

NPO/RRAA has a loan program for women. Around 300 women have taken loans within this program. Loan would have to be repaid in one year.

d) ISRA Program

It was reported that ISRA has closed a big part of their programs for women refugees in the camps. It was said that the rest small part of ISRA's activities should be focused on urgent needs and vulnerable targets.

iv. Any Other Business:

The AWDG also discussed a suggestion that a workshop be held, by ACBAR, and women, especially widows, invited to attend. The women will be given the opportunity to express their needs and views accordingly. ACBAR will take this point and the possibilities into consideration.

Participants:

Rahila	WFP
Shayema Wali	SERVE
Freshta	SERVE
Mariam	ROWAO
Huma	ROWAO
Shayema Kamali	Zarghona Ana School
Zakia	Animator Nasir Bagh Camp
Hafifa Azam	RBTU
Faiza Zara	UN/OPS
Maliha Danish	UNDCP
Hawa Majid	SCA
Malaly	SCA
Halima	Bakhtar School
Lisa O. Prois	BEFARe
Fariha	NPO/RRAA
Qadria	NPO/RRAA
Nazifa	
Jamila Akbarzai	AWWD
Fawzia	AWC
Najia Qurieshi	AWRC
Shenky Zahery	ACBAR

Women's Affairs Meeting
November 12, 1996
10:00 am

Chairperson:	Belquis R.A.	ACBAR
Participants:	Safia Seddiqi	DACAAR
	Dr. Malali	SCA
	Nasreen	VSB
	Rahima	AMRAN
	Fariha	NPO/RRAA
	Qadria	NPO/RRAA
	Nooria Saidi	Canada Fund
	Eng Rahila	WFP
	Farida Sediqi	NOWE
	Ghezala Aslam	NOWE
	Spogmie	AWC
	Zubaida	DCA
	Shamshad	DCA
	Liz	ACBAR

The meeting started at 10:15 am at the ACBAR office.

Agenda:

Introduction of the participants;

Presentation of the Peshawar network;

Past activities;

What is ongoing and going to be done;

Election of the chairperson for the next meeting;

Any other business;

*** Introduction of the participants**

The above participants introduced themselves

*** Presentation of the Peshawar Women Network;**

The Network has been established in April 1996 and has 32 members now.

The objective of the network is to conduct training workshops ie capacity building , leadership; and to raise women right issue within community.

Later the Women Advisory group was established and 12 people were identified as members including men and women working for different agencies.

*** Past activities;**

Since January 1996 five workshops have been conducted on various topics.

*** What is ongoing and going to be done;**

This issue will be discussed at the next meeting

*** Election of the chairperson for the next meeting;**

Ms. Safia Seddiqi from DACAAR was elected to preside over the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on December 10, at 10:00 am at the ACBAR office.

Agenda for the next meeting will be circulated later.

*** Any other business;**

- ACBAR was requested to provide a list of agencies involved in carpet weaving for Afghan refugees.

- It was decided that members of the network should be those who are in direct contact with women in the communities.
- Constitution for the women network should be prepared. All members were asked to draft a constitution individually and bring it to the next meeting. One constitution from the various papers prepared by each individual will be made.
- The problems of the very poor Afghan women were discussed. This issue will be further discussed at the next meeting.
- It was suggested that men and some Pakistani sisters be invited to the meetings in the future for information sharing purposes.
- Ms. Ghezala from NOWE briefed the floor on their organization's current activities (*Attach please find a copy of the report*)
- Participants were asked to submit a report on activities for women (monthly, annually) to the ACBAR office for recording purposes.

Announcement

Follow up workshop (Proposal Writing) will take place on November 28 in the ACBAR office.



ACBAR

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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Women's Affairs Meeting

December 10, 1996

10:00 am

Chairperson:	<i>Safia Seddiqi</i>	<i>DACAAR</i>
Participants:	<i>Hajera</i>	<i>AWDD</i>
	<i>Mehria</i>	<i>ATC</i>
	<i>Aqila</i>	<i>AWDP</i>
	<i>Noor Zia</i>	<i>CoAR</i>
	<i>Leena</i>	<i>NCA</i>
	<i>Masooda Omar</i>	<i>AGHCO</i>
	<i>Nasreen</i>	<i>VSF</i>
	<i>Amina Bawer</i>	<i>MARUF</i>
	<i>Dr. Zobaida Popal</i>	<i>DCA</i>
	<i>Dr. Shamshad Quraishi</i>	<i>DCA</i>
	<i>Khorshid Noori</i>	<i>NAC</i>
	<i>Sohaila</i>	<i>SOS-PG</i>
	<i>Mahboba Hoqoqmal</i>	<i>AMRAN</i>
	<i>Belquis R.A.</i>	<i>ACBAR</i>

The meeting started at 10:00 am at the ACBAR office.

Agenda:

Approval of the minutes of the last meeting;
Brief information on proposal writing workshop;
Topics to be covered in 'human rights workshop';
Discussion on goals and objectives of AWN;
Activity update;
Any other business;

Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved.

Brief information on proposal writing workshop

The floor was briefed on the results of the workshop, as some of the participants were not present at the workshop. Belquis from ACBAR was asked to send a copy of the proposal to the participants of the meeting, which could be used for future proposal writing purposes.

Topics to be covered in 'human rights workshop'

A workshop 'on human rights and child rights' is going to take place on human rights issue in February. The exact date will be announced later.

Discussion on goals and objectives of AWN

The goals of the network were once again specified as follows:

To make sure women's basic human rights are included in all interim peace agreements. These rights are:

- The right to employment outside home.
- The right to security. Women should not be harassed or forced to wear uniform clothing.
- The right of women and girls to equal access to education.
- The right of women to be trained in leadership, advocacy and networking skills.
- To increase their access to information about struggling for peace and human rights throughout the world.

2 Rehman Baba Road,
University Town,
Peshawar.
Tel : 092 - 521 - 40839 / 44392
45347 / 45316

Postal Address
Univ. P.O. Box: 1084
University Town
Peshawar, NWFP., Pakistan
Fax : 092 - 521 - 840471

Activity update

In order to have a source of record on women's activities, agencies were asked to submit their women activity reports to ACBAR Program Officer Women Affairs as soon as possible.

Any other business

It was said that the network should have a newsletter with a symbol. Therefore, the participants were asked to work on this issue.

For the easy implementation of the objectives of the network, the following four groups were formed:

Cultural

#	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Mahboboa Hoqoqmal	AMRAN	845446
2	Noorzia	CoAR	41188
3	Safia	DACAAR	43245
4	Khorshid	NAC	43717
5	Fawzia	AWC	
6	Leena	NCA	840304

Health

#	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Dr. Zobaida	DCA	44731
2	Dr. Shamshad	DCA	44731
3	Dr. Malalai	SCA	
4	Razia	DACAAR	43245
5	Sharifa	DACAAR	43245
6	Dr. Noorjan	AWRC	

Foreign Relations

#	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Mehria	ATC	40412
2	Safia	DACAAR	43245
3	Belquis	ACBAR	44392/40839/45316
4	Mahboba Hoqoqmal	AMRAN	
5	Rahela	WFP	

Social Affairs

#	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Massoda	AGHCO	846491
2	Sohaila	SOS-PG	812456
3	Amena Bower	MARUF	44986
4	Agela	AWDP	
5	Hajera	AWDD	
6	Malalai	ACDC	818188
7	Freshta	CCA	
8	Trina		
9	Nasrin	VSF	893618

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Khorshid Noori from NAC will chair the next Women Affairs meeting, which would be held on 14, January 1997 at the ACBAR conference room.

ACBAR
MINUTES OF THE
AFGHAN WOMEN'S EDUCATION MEETING
26 SEPTEMBER 1995
By: Shenky Zahery

The meeting started with a welcome speech by Shanky zahery. She introduced the agenda for the meeting.

Following individual self-introduction, the participants detailed about their programs ongoing. Educational problems were discussed.

Malalay High School:

This school is facing no major problem at the time being, while certain problems constantly exist. Representative of the school considered a prevailing problem among the schools community in Peshawar; very few of the school runners know little about the essential educational rules and methods. Schools and school runners are mostly business oriented. School managers are greatly concerned on attracting more students, with low consideration of merit and educational level.

In response to a question, she clarified that French Ministry of Education is financially supporting Malalay High School, as it did in past, when the school was based in Kabul.

Zarghona Ana High School:

This school was established in 1986, and since then SCA supported it to 1993. From 1993 on till now this school has received IRC support. The limited allocation from IRC poorly suffice the salaries, while other expenses stand apart; thus to maintain the expenses the school has to charge the students with school fee.

The representative of Zarghona Ana High School expressed her deep concern over financial status of most of the students who live in refugee camps and definitely cannot afford paying school fee. She suggested that, incase we get 4 or 5 students from one family, all of them should have to pay for school fee.

She was satisfied with the meeting and appreciated the role of ACBAR in holding such meetings, that help in resolution of problems.

Sultana Razia School:

This school has been functioning for seven years in Pakistan. After the interim government moved into Afghanistan, it closed



ACBAR

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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Women's Affairs Meeting

March 11, 1997

Chairperson: Belquis R.A.

ACBAR

Participants:

Dr. Malalai

SCA

Eng. Mehria Karim

ATC

Nabila Haqbeen

FEW

Jamila Akbarzai

AWWD

Leena

NCA

Mariam Fariwār

Afghanaid

Qadria Kurrami

NPO/RRAA

Eng. Aqela

AWDP

Zobaida Popal

DCA

Helene Van dek Wal

DCA

Fresha Omary

CCA

Terina Majboor

CCA

Mahboba Hoqoqmal

AMIRAN

Safia Seddiqi

DACAAR

Afifa Azim

Radda Barnen

Eveline

UNOCHA

Apologies:

Khorshid

NAC (busy in a seminar)

Razia & Sharifa

DACAAR (had a training course).

Agenda:

- Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting
- Finalisation of the newsletter
- Reports from the working groups
- Database of women related activities
- Any other business

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting

The Chairperson apologized for the error in the agenda about date of the meeting. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Finalisation of the newsletter

Eng. Aqela, AWDP, had prepared a draft of symbol for the newsletter. However, after a prolonged discussion, it was suggested that an artist be contacted to finalize designing the symbol.

Contents of the first issue of the newsletter, which is going to be printed by the end of March, will be as follow:

- An introduction article about the Afghan Women Network, its aim and date of establishment. What has been achieved so far would also be included in the contents of the first issue.

The various contents of the newsletter will be in Dari and Pashtu languages. An English summary of contents will also be included.

The aim of publishing the newsletter is to spread information about women's activities, problems and needs enhanced by members of the Network for other members, NGOs, UN agencies, Donors, etc.

down; but later, with cooperation of ACBAR Women Affairs, the school was able to get funds from IRC.

Representative of Sultana Razia School reported that IRC has stop funding; presently the school is facing critical situation, having no fund on hand to cover house rent, teacher salaries, stationary and other materials. If the school does not receive fund from any source, closure is feared.

Ome-Somia School:

This school is also stuck with a series of problems, e.g. house rent, teacher salaries, teaching materials, etc. This school is functioning from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm every day.

She requested the donors to properly support schools and modify their policies in this regard positively. She believed that some donors support primary schools; however, when primary schools are developed to high schools they cut or reduce funding. She was of the opinion that school is a battle field against ignorance and base of progress. School support should be given priority.

Bibi Hajar High School:

This school comprises 1000 students and is supported by Women Islamic Party in Hayatabad. Representative of Bibi Hajar High School explained that they provide primary and higher education for Afghan girls, and students are charged no school fee.

Bakhtar Primary School:

This school is established in 1994. No source has so far funded the school. The representative stated that they had referred to BEFARE and Afghan Commissionerate for support; the first refused while the second proceed to a survey; nevertheless, the survey result and any consequent assistance is not known yet.

She forwarded a request through ACBAR to funding bodies, to take care of the problems faced by their school. She hoped that ACBAR meeting for women affairs will prove helpful.

Fatemat-ul- Zahra High School:

Established in 1986 with initiatives and funding by an Islamic Party. In 1991, as the Islamic Party support stopped, University of Nebraska funded the school, and from 1992 on IRC has been financially supporting Fatemat-ul- Zahra High School. Unfortunately, IRC has reduce teacher salaries to 50% since June, 1995. The acquired fund from IRC poorly covers the needs.

Representative of Fatemat-ul- Zahra High School believed that dealing with economical problems is beyond the might of

individual schools, thus joint attempts should be made. She stressed on the role of ACBAR respectively. She also wished that funding sources will get interested in their problems and help the school sustain.

A school representative mentioned about IRC's letter to their school notifying that IRC will provide only 50% of teacher salaries for the coming academic year. IRC implies towards charging fee to cover the rest of salaries and school expenditure. She believed that all students are not able to pay for school fee, therefore, IRC is requested to fully support the school.

ACBAR representative clarified that based complains from some school teachers and principles about reduction of salaries, she talked to IRC\FETTP, and was told that, except for one school, there has been no change in IRC policy for teacher salaries. Although she tried to find a copy of IRC's letter, sent to the schools, to find out the exact issue but the schools did not provide her with a copy.

AWC:

AWC has been functioning for 9 years. It carries on activities in different fields e.g. school, clinic, hospital, etc. There is no particular permanent funding source to this organization. Representative of AWC was happy to attend ACBAR meeting and hoped that they would come up with good results. She requested ACBAR to follow up their problems with concerned authorities.

RBTU supported the idea to fix a school fee; "families should have some responsibilities too" she reasoned, but limitations should be observed, i.e. all students should not be charged and students should be differentiated according their economical status. She proposed to hold a gathering of parents and discuss the problem. It will help to take their financial status in consideration.

She stressed that parents should be expected to contribute as much as their financial situation permits. Parents should reduce educational problems faced by their children.

AWWD was concerned about the fee fixing issue. The representative said that most families would stop sending their children to school if they are asked for school fee. She suggested that the issue should be carefully dealt with, and minimum fee should be fixed.

AWRC expressed deep concern over the living circumstances of Afghans. The problems should be identified and people should be helped. Poor living conditions do not permit the people to think of educational facilities.

An idea was presented to the floor that members of the meeting, who run educational programs for women, have a meeting with Director of UNHCR and Afghan Commissionarate. The idea was overally supported. Then, it was decided that:

- ACBAR should send minutes of the meeting to Director of UNHCR and Afghan Commissionarate.
- ACBAR Programme Officer Women Affairs, should make appointment with UNHCR and Afghan Commissionarate, and fix a date for meeting.
- ACBAR should make the arrangements for the meeting and inform all women education programmes.
- Minutes of the meeting should also be sent to embassies and other authorities, involved in assisting educational programmes for women.

Any Other Business:

The floor favored to pray for late Sultana, ex-principle of Sultana Razia, who has passed away.

Participants of the meeting:

Hafifa Azim	RBTU
Muslima Waziri	NRC/NCA
Jamila Wahidi	Bibi Hajar High School
Mariam Ihsanyar	AWRC
Parveen Arafi	AWRC
Shah Bibi Halimi	AWRC
Najia Zewari	AWRC
Halima	Bakhtar Primary School
Hafiza Raufi	Bakhtar Primary School
Zubiada	Sultana Raziz High School
Laila	Sultana Raziz High School
Fatana Gillani	AWC
Rahima Safi	AWC
Shaheen Parveen	UNHCR
Qumar Jan	Fatemat-ul-Zahra School
Shayema Kamali	Zarghona Ana School
Khadija Raufi	Malalay High School
Jamila Akbar Zie	AWWD
Khurshid Noori	NAC
Hamida Anwari	AVICEN
Noor Jahan	AWWD
Shenky Zahery	ACBAR

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
AFGHANI WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP
THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 1994

At the beginning of the meeting participant introduced themselves and approved the minutes of last meeting.

Participants explained the activities of their offices as follows.

DCA - Nafisa and Zabiada

DCA has started poultry training program in Nasir Bagh camp. This course cover one week and at the end of the course some kit are given to the trainees.

UMCA - Masuma Raza

UMCA has Dia Training program. About 220 women have been trained in Nasir Bagh camp. At the end of the course UMCA gives certificates and Dia kit to the trainees.

SCF U.K - Sima and Sahar.

SCF U.K has health activities. About 2000 women has been trained in FHWP and 5000 as Community Health Workers, so far SCF run an MCH clinic in Nasir Bagh camp.

They had literacy program for men from 1988 to 1993, and have started women's literacy program in 1993.

- Dr. Jamila from Afghan Women's Council and Fowzia from Aryana primary school.

Afghan Women's Council has Mother and Child Health Program, School, Sewing Center and course for teaching Quran and English.

FEP/IRC - Hamida Zia and Mariam Fariwar

FEP has training of literacy, Islamic studies and Education (supports 25 schools in different camps).

AWRC - Parween Arifi and Nasreen Akhtari

AWRC has trained about 300 women in literacy training program (one week course). At the end of each course a kit of medicine and some equipment are distributed to the graduated trainees. Training of 400 women in Knitting and teaching of Quran is in the future plan of AWRC.

SC. U.S - Salima Ali Hatimi/ Spozmie Noori Ahmad/Shafiqa Ali and Latifa Ershad.

SC U.S. has Health, Literacy, and Handicraft programs. Credit sacheme/self reliance program started recently.

APA - Zakia

APA has started irrigation, agriculture and distribution of materials to orphans, widows, displaced and needy people in Paktia, Wardak, Nangarhar, Parwan, Kabul, Laghman and Paktika provinces since 1989.

Recently a new department for women was created. The main purpose of this department is to make needy and poor families self reliant, and pave the way for their participation in reconstruction of Afghanistan. This department will have poultry, Honey bees keeping, literacy, kitchen gardening, and growing of non fruit trees sapling programs in above mentioned provinces.

NAC - Khurshid Noori Sawize

NAC had 42 schools which had only three classes for girls at the beginning. At present NAC has two high schools and six primary schools in Ghazni province.

The previous NAC activities which were in Iran have shifted to Herat province of Afghanistan.

AWWD - Jamila Akbar Zaie from

AWWD has been started literacy, Islamic studies and Health training programs since 1990. Teaching and Learning programs, primary and higher programs of computer has been started in 1993, and a very new program of WP/60 started recently. Soap and candle making is the main interest of women in the camps. The future plan of the office is to start candy making program in the refugees camp.

Manifesto of AWDG

Before the formation of manifesto, formation of platform is very important. For this purpose Shenky Zahery will call a committee and will work on platform of AWDG.

It was suggested that not only the educated working women should be invited to these meetings, the uneducated women who are very active also should be invited to the meeting and conferences. It was decided that these uneducated women will only be participating at the meetings and share the ideas, not to act as a member of advisory board or AWDG.

Shenky Zahery and Khurshid Noori will select the members of the committee, and it was decided that the advisory board should be selected in next meeting.

Development of Education Through Schools, Nurseries and Anti Illiteracy.

Discussion was made about the development of education through the schools, Nurseries and anti illiteracy combat. It was agreed that the creation of such programs and courses in the immigration status is very necessary and helpful for the Afghan women

Past experiences show that most of the families are against the girls education, but this problem has been solved a little after a long discussion with them. As we know that because of economical problems it is the expectation of the families to get some financial help or assist from any sources. It was proposed that more efforts should be put to acknowledge of the people the virtual values of the matters than its material values in order to make the people self reliant. It will be ideal if such programs be arranged inside Afghanistan.

To arrange such programs and promote the virtual values, it is necessary to approach the circumstances of the surrounding environment.

The following factors also help in making the program efficient.

1. Creation of literacy program in all programs.
2. Creation of Dari and Pashto courses for the students who are studying in Pakistani schools.
3. Group leaders should be selected among the educated women from the same rural areas
4. Teachers should be selected from the previous students who got top positions.

Development of loan credit scheme:

SC U.S Islamabad said about this was running in Haripoor and Sawabi camps. Mansera camp is the future plane of this office. The effective of this program is to make the needy and poor people self reliant.

In this program a group of (5-6 women) were paid Rs. 1000 each which should be repaid (refunded) in 12 weeks installments (12 weeks 12 installments) and a 75 % of an instalment should be refunded as the 13th instalment. This amount would be used for the expenses of the new projects.

In future programs, it is planed that the major portion of the budged be given to bigger group of the people in order to have more income of big investments. It is the future plan to distribute the raw materials of handicraft to the needy, poor and skill women and will paid for their work. This program will be for the people who expect it, and first of all it will be given for widows, disabled and who have lost head of the family. First of all the families should find market for themselves. The groups who return their loan on time they will be selected for the next program, otherwise they will be rejected from next program.

Note: Next meeting will be on Thursday 22 September 1994 at 9:00 a.m. Please send your very important subjects for agenda of the meeting.

Ms. Safia Seddiqi will try to contact an artist regarding the symbol.

Ms. Eveline, UNOCHA, would check if UNOCHA could provide assistance in spreading the information through their E-mail system, to other women organizations in the world and donor communities.

CCA will assist in computerizing the newsletter while NCA agreed to cooperate in making copies for circulation.

Reports from the working groups

a) Cultural working group:

Eng. Aqela was thanked for the valuable time she had spent on preparing the symbol of the network. The Cultural working group has not been able to do more because of poor participation of members. The members were requested to regularize their attendance.

b) Health working group:

DACAAR' training project has been busy training some 14 women (as health educators) from Herat and Nangarhar provinces of Afghanistan. The course continued for two weeks.

Dr. Zobaida, DCA, reported the following matters from her witnesses during her visit to Arab and Janikhil refugee camps.

*** Arabs Refugee Camp:**

People have problems in getting potable water. There are only two wells, dug by DACAAR water supply project. Women's health situation was described to be poor, which is mainly because of the cultural restrictions on taking the women out of the camp for treatment. The population of the camp is roughly estimated to be more than 1000 families.

*** Janikhil Camp:**

This is not a new camp, but the situation of, specially, women's health is very poor as similar to Arabs camp. There have been no vaccination teams for vaccinating mothers and children. On the other hand, the inhabitants of the camp who are mostly Kochis, have no interest in vaccinating their children. Population of the camp was said to be around 500 families.

Taking account of the situation reported above, the floor suggested some projects to be undertaken in the camps, i.e. digging new wells, establishing health centers, running income generating projects to assist the people's economy, etc. It was also suggested that summary of the problems be forwarded to UNHCR to provide relief assistance to the people.

c) Foreign Relations working group:

Nothing particular has been done so far.

It was stated that expatriate female staff of aid agencies can become members of this working group.

d) Social Affairs:

Radda Bernen has started a one year animation training program for 20 women including 2 new refugee women. The program contains training in child's right, women's right, community mobilization, gender issue, rehabilitation and some other tasks.

Radda Bernen also reported that, lately, people in Nasir Bagh camp have established a school for 700 students. It was added that there are volunteers from the camp who teach in this school.

It was suggested that the network members donate some assistance to the needy new refugees. They can contribute in cash or kind i.e. cloths, and other materials. The donations could be distributed by the Radda Bernen's trained social workers. This suggestion was warmly welcomed by all the participants.

Database of women related activities

ACBAR's women Sub-committee is planning to produce a database for women related activities of agencies. The participants were briefed on how to fill the forms which will be send to the NGOs in the near future.

Any other business

The Chairperson emphasized on the importance of attending the meetings regularly, and being on time for the meetings.

This norm was once again stressed upon that those members who miss three consecutive meetings without valid reasons and/or apologies will be dropped from the mailing list of the Women Affairs meeting.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 April 1997 at 10:00 am, in ACBAR Conference room.

The following people have not attended several consecutive meetings of the Women Affairs and have shown little involvement in their relevant working groups activities, so their positions within their working groups have been replaced:

1. Aziza Azizi, AWRC, from Cultural Working Group (WG):
2. Massoda- AGHCO, Nasrin-VSB, Sofia- AWRC, Shahla- CCA from Social Affairs WG:

Attached please find a copy of the updated list of members of the various working groups.

Cultural

SN	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Mahboba Hogoqmal	AMRAN	845446
2	Noorzia	CoAR	41188
3	Safia	DACAAR	43245
4	Khorshid Noori	NAC	43717
5	Fawzia	AWC	812115
6	Leena	NCA	840304
7	Jamila Akbarzai	AWWD	843497
8	Partawmina	AWRC	841552

*Horna***Health**

SN	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Dr. Zobaida	DCA	44731
2	Dr. Shamshad	DCA	44731
3	Dr. Malalai	SCA	814772
4	Razia	DACAAR	40731
5	Sharifa	DACAAR	40731
6	Dr. Noorjan	AWRC	841452

Foreign relations

SN	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Mehria	ATC	40412
2	Safia	DACAAR	43245
3	Belquis	ACBAR	44392/40839
4	Mahboba Hogoqmal	AMRAN	845446
5	Rahela	WFP	273641
6	Farida	NCA	840340

Social Affairs

SN	Name	Agency	Phone
1	Fariha	NPO/RRAA	41129
2	Sohaila	SOS-PG	812456
3	Amena Bower	MARUF	44986
4	Eng. Aqela	AWDP	
5	Qadria	NPO/RRAA	
6	Malalai	ACDC	
7	Freshta	CCA	810116
8	Terina	CCA	810116
9	Afifa	Radda Bernen T/U	43905



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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Women Affairs Sub-committee Meeting

April 9, 1997

Chairperson:

Partawmina AHC

Minutes:

Belquis R.A. ACBAR

Participants:

Eng. Mehria	ATC	Farida	NCA
Spozhmai	AWC	Dr. Samia	
Eng. Aqela	AWDP	Farida	WCSP
Jamila Akbarzai	AWWD	Sadozai	WDPA
Masooma	Bibi Sarwari School	Eng. Rahela	WFP
Jamila	Nazoana School	Sohaila	RSSA
Freshta Omary	CCA	Nasrin	VSF
Noorzia	CoAR	Afifa	RBTU
Safia Seddiqi	DACAAR	Fariha	NPO/RRAA
Noorjan	DACAAR	Khorshid Noori	NAC
Farahnaz	DACAAR	Zohra Kakar	
Dr. Zobaida	DCA	Mariam Kakar	
Rahima	FEW	Homaira	GTZ-NSP
Nabila	FEW	Evelin	UNOCHA
Leena	NCA		
Nazifa	Malalai School	Belquis Baluch	ROAOW
Homa Zafer	Khaharan Magazine		

Apologies:

Jamila Amian CDAP-UNDP

Agenda:

- Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting
- Update on Gender Advisory Group (GAG) achievements (by Safia)
- Reports from the working groups' activities
- Presentation of AWAI (by Ms. Kakar)
- Any other business

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting

Report on meeting with Mr. Bruderlein, was included in the agenda. The meeting, therefore, was called an hour earlier than the scheduled time. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Report on the meeting with Mr. Bruderlien

ACBAR briefed the floor on the meeting which was organized and hosted by CCA in Peshawar on 4 April 1997. Mr. Bruderlien, Department for Humanitarian Assistance (DHA), Policy Advisor has come from New York on a visit to Pakistan and Afghanistan. He has stated his purpose of visit to be meeting with Afghans and seek their constructive opinions on restoration of peace in Afghanistan. Mr. Bruderlien, in the meeting, requested the Afghan women for their ideas and solid suggestions to be followed up by UN.

The Women Sub-committee decided to prepare a statement for the UN Representative, which will contain suggestions relating to different fields. Part of the contents of the statement were worked out in meeting as follow:

- * Members of the sub-committee are concerned to understand the real interest of UN to follow up the suggestions.
- 1. UN should continue providing education for boys even if the girls' education is denied in Afghanistan. Afghans do not want to have an entirely un-educated generation.
- 2. UN should give priority to supporting formal and non-formal educational services for refugees in Pakistan and Iran.
- 3. Income generating projects should be supported which will help create jobs for Afghans inside Afghanistan or in Pakistan. This will provide a ground for peace support.
- 4. UN should support women related activities permitted by Taliban.
- 5. UN programs for Afghanistan should give priority for employment of Afghans than Pakistanis.

Presentation of AWAI

Ms. Mariam Kakar, member of the Afghan Women's Association International in San Diego (AWAI), has recently come to Pakistan from San Diego, USA, where AWAI is based. She briefed the participants on her organization and its objectives. AWAI has been formed by a number of Afghan individuals who aim to provide possible assistance for Afghanistan. Similar associations have also been established in California and Los Angeles. She added the purpose of her travel to Pakistan and Afghanistan to be collecting information on, specially, education situation. She welcomed proposals for assistance.

The Pakistan based refugee schools can submit proposals to "Belquis R. A. in ACBAR Peshawar".

"Publishing House" for Afghan women

In a meeting in Islamabad, Ms. Nancy Dupree had suggested that there was a need for establishment of a publishing house for Afghan women. It was expressed that the voice of Afghan women should be reflected world-wide.

As a follow up of Nancy's suggestion, the Women Sub-committee decided to develop a proposal for establishment of a publishing house to be submitted to some donors. It was decided that a meeting be arranged to discuss, particularly, this and some other issues. The meeting was decided to take place at 11:00 am on 12 April 1997 in WFP office. The issues to be discussed were listed as follow:

- * Afghan women in Peace process;
- * Establishment of publishing house for Afghan women;
- * Conducting workshops and training courses for the NGOs staff; and
- * Goals and Objectives of AWN.

Any other business

There was no other business. The meeting was, therefore, adjourned.

The next regular meeting of ACBAR Women Sub-committee will be held at 10:00 am on 29 April in ACBAR office.

The proposed agenda includes:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| - Formation of AWN Executive Board | 10:15-11:15 |
| - Activity update | 11:15-11:45 |
| - Any other business | 11:45-12:00 |

Note: Please bring your monthly one page activity report to the meeting.



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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

Women Affairs Sub-committee Meeting 10:00 am May 13, 1997

Chairperson: Belquis R.A. ACBAR

Participants:

Khorshid Noori	NAC
Jamila Akbarzai	AWWD
Partawmina	AWRC
Eng. Aqela	AVDP
Eng. Sohaila	RSSA
Eng. Sadozai	WDPA
Farida	WCSP
Noorzia	CoAR
Homa Zaafer	ROAOW
Qudsia	HDCAW
Masooma	UMCA
Humaira	NSP-GTZ
Farangis	Afghanaid
Masooda	AGFCO
Hawa Majid	SCA
Farida	NCA
Nilofer	AMRAN
Zeenat	MARUF
Nabila Haqbeen	FEW
Nasreen	USB
Leena	NCA
Eng. Rahila	WFP
Brigitte	UNOCHA-ISBD
Belqis Makiz	
Spozhma	AWC
Eveline	UNOCHA-Peshawar
Eng. Mehria	ATC
Qadira	NPO/RRAA

Apology: Safia Seddiqi DACAAR

Absent: Jamila Aman CDAP-UNDP
Dr. Zobaida Popal DCA

Agenda:

- Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting
- Announcements
- Formation of AWN Executive Committee

Approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting

Both the agenda and minutes were approved.

Announcements

NCA and ACBAR intend to conduct a workshop on Networking on 21 May 1997. The workshop will be facilitated by Mohammad Ehsan from NCA and Jawed Ludin from ACBAR. Venue of the workshop will be ACBAR conference room. Invitations for the participants will be circulated later.

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